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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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* A/49/150.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[12 July 1994]

1. The arrangements for disarmament and arms limitations and their verification as well as the confidence-building measures in Europe are negotiated in the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). In addition to the military field, CSCE covers a wide range of other aspects which contribute to security and confidence in Europe. The results in Europe of disarmament and arms limitations of conventional weapons and their verification have been pioneering in many respects. The agreed measures are in line with, and have also had an impact on the United Nations guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security.

2. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) between members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact, was signed in Paris in 1990. The CFE Treaty reduces the risk of surprise attack as well as the possibilities to launch large-scale military operations. The limitations agreed upon in the CFE Treaty shall be fulfilled by 1996.

3. The Vienna Document 1992 has been built on the confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) of the Helsinki Final Act 1975, the Stockholm Document 1986 and the Vienna Document 1990. The agreed measures, which apply to the whole of Europe, include annual exchange of detailed information about military forces and their equipment, information on plans for the deployment of weapons and information on military budgets. Also important is the inclusion of a mechanism for consultation regarding unusual military activities and cooperation concerning hazardous incidents of a military nature. The voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about military activities is one of the ways to increase confidence. The practice of notification of military activities, their observation and inspection have reduced misunderstandings and suspicions between the participating States.

4. A communications network between the participating States has been set up to facilitate the information exchange. Annual implementation assessment meetings are arranged to discuss the implementation of agreed CSBMs.

5. The Treaty on Open Skies, which was signed at Helsinki in 1992, and will come into force after a required number of States have ratified it, is a major confidence- and security-building measure. It allows for observation flights to be made over the territory of other treaty signatories. Since all Canadian, United States and Russian territory is open to over-flight, it is the first CSBM to cover territory outside the CSCE zone.

6. The CSCE follow-up meeting at Helsinki in 1992 decided on the establishment of a Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), which started its work at Vienna in the autumn of 1992. Within FSC, the CSCE participating States are negotiating on further measures in arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building, as well as on measures for security enhancement and cooperation. The

first results of the negotiations were reached at the end of 1993. Further achievements are expected for the CSCE Review Conference at Budapest in 1994.

7. Finland is committed to the implementation of the CSBM provisions of the Vienna Document. Finland sets great value on the work of the CSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, which is the only existing body for conventional arms control in Europe. Charting the future of arms control in the CSCE framework will be an important task of the Budapest Conference.

8. The CFE Treaty has an important role as a foundation for European security. Finland, though not a signatory of the Treaty, regards the CFE Treaty of great importance to European security, and calls for its full implementation.

9. Finland emphasizes the indivisibility of security; the future work for European arms control should be based on a unified CSCE structure while recognizing each participating State's unique security concerns and individuality in defence systems. The future structure should also allow subregional approaches to security. While noting the importance of further limitations and reductions, attention should also be paid to a more comprehensive and uniform implementation of the existing commitments.

10. The CFE Treaty and CSBMs have greatly contributed to security and stability in Europe by increasing openness and transparency through information exchange and military contacts. It is encouraging to see that cooperation in the field of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures is developing also in some other regions of the world.

SLOVENIA

[Original: English]

[18 June 1994]

1. The Republic of Slovenia welcomes the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission (A/48/42, annex II) and their endorsement by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/75 G of 16 December 1993. The guidelines and recommendations contain a comprehensive system of principles and policy recommendations which will undoubtedly help regional arrangements and States Members of the United Nations to develop appropriate approaches towards regional security and disarmament.

2. Slovenia wishes to emphasize in particular the importance of such principles as the principle requiring from participating States to define, as appropriate, the region to which the arrangements for disarmament and arms limitation apply (ibid., para. 12). Careful definition of the appropriate area of application of arrangements in the field of regional disarmament and arms limitation is vital for the successful functioning of the relevant regime and must be such as to provide the necessary geographical framework for meaningful arms reduction and disarmament measures.

3. The principle of openness of arms limitation arrangements to all States concerned on the basis of their free agreement (ibid., para. 13) is a basic and natural complement to the principle of appropriate definition of the region to which relevant measures apply. The relevance and effectiveness of measures of arms reduction and disarmament within a carefully defined area will essentially depend on genuine commitment of participating States. Free agreement is the way to such a commitment.

4. The above aspects of the principles and guidelines demonstrate the importance of the content of that document. Moreover, they have an immediate and practical value in regional efforts. The Republic of Slovenia is actively involved in the efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the domains of arms reduction and strengthening of the regional security. These efforts clearly show that global and regional approaches complement each other and must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, practical experience expressed and shared in the United Nations can provide an important contribution to the regional efforts.

5. Slovenia welcomes the discussion on regional disarmament in the framework of the General Assembly and will, in due course, present its views on various specific aspect of this theme, in light of the relevant experience.